IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute currently amended claims 27-30 for the same-numbered corresponding claims previously presented in the application, cancel claims 33-38, and add claims 39-65 to the application:

1. - 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) A hammer for releasably retaining nails of varying sizes, said hammer comprising:

a handle;

a hammerhead affixed to said handle, wherein said hammerhead ~~comprising a plurality of nail-retention grooves of predetermined sizes located on flattened side surfaces and at least one nail-retention groove of a predetermined size located on a bottom surface of said hammerhead~~ comprises at least one flattened side surface and at least one nail-retention groove of a predetermined size located on said flattened side surface configured so as to align a corresponding selected ~~nails~~ nail toward a nail striking orientation~~;~~,

wherein said flattened side surface is in a fixed location relative to said hammerhead whereby a nail being received by said at least one nail-retention groove is positioned in a side-loading position at said flattened side surface prior to making contact with an object being struck with the nail,

wherein ~~each~~ at least one of said at least one nail-retention ~~grooves~~ groove is dimensioned to releasably accept both a shaft of a nail and a head of a nail, and

wherein ~~each~~ at least one of said ~~grooves comprising~~ at least one nail-retention groove comprises:

a partially cylindrical nail body groove portion of substantially uniform radius within said flattened side surface, and

a nail-head groove portion contiguous to said partially cylindrical nail body groove portion configured such that the head of the nail is partially enveloped by said nail-head groove portion~~. and~~

~~at least one groove on at least one of said side surfaces or on an upper side surface of said hammerhead or any combination thereof, said at least one groove being transversely oriented across said side surfaces~~; and

a magnetic ~~core~~ component, disposed within said hammerhead, in magnetic communication with ~~each~~ at least one of said at least one nail-retention ~~grooves~~ groove.

28. (Currently amended) The hammer according to claim 27, wherein said magnetic ~~core~~ component comprises ~~multiple~~ a plurality of magnets, and wherein each of said at least one nail retention ~~grooves~~ groove includes at least one magnet embedded therein.

29. (Currently amended) The hammer according to claim 27, wherein said nail-head groove portion ~~is partially frustoconical shaped~~ has a half conical shape, and wherein said half conical shape comprises a top portion and a slanted body portion.

30. (Currently amended) The hammer according to claim 27, further comprising:

a pair of flared claws with an inner side portion height and an outer side portion height, wherein said inner side portion height is greater than said outer side portion height such that a rounded upper surface of said flared claws slants downward with respect to a longitudinal median of a top surface of said hammerhead ~~top surface;~~,

wherein each of said claws ~~each having~~ has a claw end defining an interior nail removal void with a width that diminishes into said hammerhead, wherein each of said nail removal voids ~~forming~~ forms an axis of substantial symmetry that converges with the other, and

wherein each of said nail-removal voids is transversely angled such that said nail removal void includes a variable elevation that allows said nail-removal void to be substantially co-planar with the nail-removal surface while said hammerhead is rolled from said claw toward ~~said~~ a striking face along said rounded upper surface.

31. (Previously presented) The hammer according to claim 30, wherein said rounded upper surface possesses a degree of rounding that continues from said claws to said striking face.

32. – 38. (Canceled)

39. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 29, wherein said top portion of said half conical shape has a raised height of a predetermined length.

40. (Newly added) A hammer for releasably retaining nails of varying sizes, said hammer comprising:

a handle;

a hammerhead affixed to said handle, wherein said hammerhead comprises a bottom surface and at least one nail-retention groove of a predetermined size located on said bottom surface configured so as to align a corresponding selected nail toward a nail striking orientation,

wherein said bottom surface is in a fixed location relative to said hammerhead whereby a nail being received by said at least one nail-retention groove is positioned in a bottom-loading position at said bottom surface prior to making contact with an object being struck with the nail,

wherein at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove is dimensioned to releasably accept a shaft of a nail, and

wherein at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove comprises a partially cylindrical nail body groove portion of substantially uniform radius within said bottom surface; and

a magnetic component, disposed within said hammerhead, in magnetic communication with at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove.

41. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 40, wherein said hammerhead further comprises a neck, and wherein said neck includes an indentation.

42. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 40, wherein said at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove further comprises a nail-head groove portion contiguous to said partially cylindrical nail body groove portion configured such that the head of the nail is partially enveloped by said nail-head groove portion.

43. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 42, wherein said nail-head groove portion has a half conical shape, and wherein said half conical shape comprises a top portion and a slanted body portion.

44. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 43, wherein said top portion of said half conical shape has a raised height of a predetermined length.

45. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 40, wherein said magnetic component comprises a plurality of magnets, and wherein each of said at least one nail retention groove includes at least one magnet embedded therein.

46. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 40, further comprising:

a pair of flared claws with an inner side portion height and an outer side portion height, wherein said inner side portion height is greater than said outer side portion height such that a rounded upper surface of said flared claws slants downward with respect to a longitudinal median of a top surface of said hammerhead,

wherein each of said claws has a claw end defining an interior nail removal void with a width that diminishes into said hammerhead, wherein each of said nail removal voids forms an axis of substantial symmetry that converges with the other, and

wherein each of said nail-removal voids is transversely angled such that said nail removal void includes a variable elevation that allows said nail-removal void to be substantially co-planar with the nail-removal surface while said hammerhead is rolled from said claw toward a striking face along said rounded upper surface.

47. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 46, wherein said rounded upper surface possesses a degree of rounding that continues from said claws to said striking face.

48. (Newly added) A hammer for releasably retaining nails of varying sizes, said hammer comprising:

a handle;

a hammerhead affixed to said handle, wherein said hammerhead comprises a top surface and at least one nail-retention groove of a predetermined size located on said top surface configured so as to align a corresponding selected nail toward a nail striking orientation,

wherein said top surface is in a fixed location relative to said hammerhead whereby a nail being received by said at least one nail-retention groove is positioned in a top-loading position at said top surface prior to making contact with an object being struck with the nail,

wherein at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove is dimensioned to releasably accept both a shaft of a nail and a head of a nail, and

wherein at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove comprises:

a partially cylindrical nail body groove portion of substantially uniform radius within said top surface, and

a nail-head groove portion contiguous to said partially cylindrical nail body groove portion configured such that the head of the nail is partially enveloped by said nail-head groove portion, wherein said nail-head groove portion has a half conical shape, and wherein said half conical shape comprises a top portion and a slanted body portion; and

a magnetic component, disposed within said hammerhead, in magnetic communication with at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove.

49. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 48, wherein said top portion of said half conical shape has a raised height of a predetermined length.

50. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 48, wherein said magnetic component comprises a plurality of magnets, and wherein each of said at least one nail retention groove includes at least one magnet embedded therein.

51. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 48, further comprising:

a pair of flared claws with an inner side portion height and an outer side portion height, wherein said inner side portion height is greater than said outer side portion height such that a rounded upper surface of said flared claws slants downward with respect to a longitudinal median of said top surface of said hammerhead,

wherein each of said claws has a claw end defining an interior nail removal void with a width that diminishes into said hammerhead, wherein each of said nail removal voids forms an axis of substantial symmetry that converges with the other, and

wherein each of said nail-removal voids is transversely angled such that said nail removal void includes a variable elevation that allows said nail-removal void to be substantially co-planar with the nail-removal surface while said hammerhead is rolled from said claw toward a striking face along said rounded upper surface.

52. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 51, wherein said rounded upper surface possesses a degree of rounding that continues from said claws to said striking face.

53. (Newly added) A hammer for releasably retaining nails of varying sizes, said hammer comprising:

a handle;

a hammerhead affixed to said handle, wherein said hammerhead comprises a pair of curved claws, a curved claw body, a throat, a neck, and a striking face,

wherein at least one of said curved claws has a small curved claw end and a larger curved claw end,

wherein said throat and said striking face comprising at least one flattened side surface, at least one nail-retention groove of a predetermined size located on said flattened side surface configured so as to align a corresponding selected nail toward a nail striking orientation, a bottom surface, and at least one nail-retention groove of a predetermined size located on said bottom surface configured so as to align a corresponding selected nail toward a nail striking orientation,

wherein said flattened side surface is in a fixed location relative to said hammerhead whereby a nail being received by said at least one nail-retention groove located on said flattened side surface is positioned in a side-loading position at said flattened side surface prior to making contact with an object being struck with the nail,

wherein said bottom side surface is in a fixed location relative to said hammerhead whereby a nail being received by said at least one nail-retention groove located on said bottom surface is positioned in a bottom-loading position at said bottom surface prior to making contact with an object being struck with the nail,

wherein at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said flattened side surface is dimensioned to releasably accept both a shaft of a nail and a head of a nail,

wherein at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said bottom surface is dimensioned to releasably accept a shaft of a nail,

wherein at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said flattened side surface comprises:

a partially cylindrical nail body groove portion of substantially uniform radius within said flattened side surface, and

a nail-head groove portion contiguous to said partially cylindrical nail body groove portion configured such that the head of the nail is partially enveloped by said nail-head groove portion,

wherein at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said bottom surface comprises a partially cylindrical nail body groove portion of substantially uniform radius within said bottom surface; and

a magnetic component, disposed within said hammerhead, in magnetic communication with at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said flattened side surface and with at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said bottom surface.

54. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 53, wherein said neck includes an indentation.

55. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 54, wherein said nail-head groove portion of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said flattened side surface has a half conical shape, and wherein said half conical shape comprises a top portion and a slanted body portion.

56. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 55, wherein said top portion of said half conical shape has a raised height of a predetermined length.

57. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 54, wherein said hammerhead further comprises an eye.

58. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 54, wherein said magnetic component comprises a plurality of magnets, and wherein each of said nail retention grooves includes at least one magnet embedded therein.

59. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 53, wherein said nail-head groove portion of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said flattened side surface has a half conical shape, and wherein said half conical shape comprises a top portion and a slanted body portion.

60. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 59, wherein said top portion of said half conical shape has a raised height of a predetermined length.

61. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 53, wherein said at least one of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said bottom surface further comprises a nail-head groove portion contiguous to said partially cylindrical nail body groove portion of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said bottom surface configured such that the head of the nail is partially enveloped by said nail-head groove portion of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said bottom surface.

62. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 61, wherein said nail-head groove portion of said at least one nail-retention groove located on said bottom side surface has a half conical shape, and wherein said half conical shape comprises a top portion and a slanted body portion.

63. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 62, wherein said top portion of said half conical shape has a raised height of a predetermined length.

64. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 53, wherein said magnetic component comprises a plurality of magnets, and wherein each of said nail retention grooves includes at least one magnet embedded therein.

65. (Newly added) The hammer according to claim 53, wherein said hammerhead further comprises an eye.